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Leaders in Demand at St John

St John Ambulance SA is on the hunt for new leaders to keep up with their ever expanding youth program. In the past four years, St John Cadet numbers have doubled to 800 across 35 divisions in South Australia, and St John is eager to continue to grow the program.

Youth Engagement and Development Officer Darren Daff says knowing first aid is NOT a requirement.

“We are after vibrant, engaging individuals who are over 18 years of age and are interested in helping others succeed.

“The leaders we recruit don’t need to know first aid, we can teach them that. They need to be able to work with young people, inspire by example, and help them achieve their goals. We are currently running at capacity, and can’t continue to grow the youth program without additional leaders.” He said.

St John Ambulance SA has one of the most vibrant and active youth development programs in the country. The program helps Cadets under the age of 18 learn life skills such as teamwork, communication, organization and first aid, while building confidence and self-worth.

The opportunity for St John leaders to mentor and support Cadets is also a good opportunity for university students and graduates to gain an edge in an increasingly competitive jobs market.

“Being a St John leader is so much more than learning first aid,” Darren said.

“We have seen many cases where St John leaders go on to successful careers in science, health and education. The St John Youth Program provides our leaders with exposure to situations that will occur during their working life.

“St John leadership roles give you an opportunity to practice problem solving skills, and also organizational and planning skills which are all highly transferable and looked on favourably by employers.”
There are many examples of Cadet leaders whom the program has helped launch into successful careers including the City of Playford’s youngest ever Mayor - Glenn Docherty, Rob Elliott – the General Manager of Educational Services at SA Ambulance, and Dr Kathryn Zeitz - Director of Organisational Improvement for Central Northern Adelaide Health Service.

“St John leaders can be aged anywhere from 18 to 100! If you’re under the age of 25 your title will be ‘Cadet Leader’ and if you’re over 25 you’re known as an ‘Officer’.

“Divisional meetings occur once a week during the school term and run for around two hours, so contact hours are kept to a minimum. Responsibilities include delivering the St John Youth Program, teaching first aid, administration, peer mentoring, and there are also opportunities for engagement in community activity.” Darren said.

If you are interested in becoming a St John leader call 1300 360 455, or register your interest at http://www.stjohnsa.com.au/get-involved/volunteer-now. Potential leaders will be contacted by a St John Recruiting Officer.

St John will provide all necessary training and support to succeed in this rewarding role.

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